Nova Scotia Office of Immigration

Statement of Mandate

2014 – 2015

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Message from the Minister of Immigration

I am pleased to present the Office of Immigration's 2014-2015 Statement of Mandate and work for the coming year.

It is not a new story that Nova Scotia faces significant demographic pressures. Fundamentally, we need more people to come, work, and make their lives in Nova Scotia. That is why my government has placed a high priority on attracting and retaining immigrants who will choose to call Nova Scotia home. In 2014-2015, I look forward to advancing several key initiatives that will put a focus on the importance of immigration to Nova Scotia using all possible pathways.

A priority will be placed on collaborating with my federal, provincial and territorial colleagues in welcoming and supporting newcomers as they join us in building vibrant communities and a prosperous Canada.

I will continue to advocate for the federal government to increase the number of immigrants that the Province is permitted to nominate annually. The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration has always nominated as many immigrants as the federally imposed nominee certificate cap allows. In recent years, the Office has even exceeded the annual cap by accessing re-allocated certificates that could not be used by other jurisdictions. Still, all the evidence before us indicates that the numbers are outstripped by demand.

A significant aspect of our work in Nova Scotia this year will be preparing for the January 2015 launch of Citizenship and Immigration Canada's new intake process. This Expression of Interest system will transform federal economic immigration pathways from a first-come, first-served basis to one in which selected candidates who best meet Canada's labour market needs are invited to apply. Nova Scotia employers will be able to play a much more active role in this system as a job offer is one of the triggers for an invitation to apply. Over the coming months, we will continue to reach out to the private sector to ensure we are positioned to maximize the opportunities presented by the Expression of Interest system.

In addition to assisting employers who require immigrants to fill vacant jobs, I will also lay the groundwork for Nova Scotia to welcome more immigrants. We know that Nova Scotia's economic wellbeing requires additional labour supply. Understanding where those needs are and having up-to-date information is vital. We can strengthen our economy and create opportunities for all Nova Scotians by expanding the Nova Scotia Nominee Program to include streams specific to business people and international students.

My work will be supported by the creation of a Premier's Immigration Advisory Council. The collective insights from this council, along with input from other key stakeholders, such as business and community leaders, and settlement organizations, will aid in our efforts to improve Nova Scotia's attraction and retention of newcomers.

Along with the staff at the Office of Immigration, I will work with our partners in 2014-15 to see that Nova Scotia continues to realize the benefits of welcoming immigrants to our province.

Lena Metlege Diab
Minister of Immigration

Message from the Deputy Minister of Immigration

I am pleased to provide an overview of the Office of Immigration's operational priorities for 2014-2015.

The Office of Immigration recognizes that immigration is an important element of Nova Scotia's future economic and social prosperity. In 2014-2015, we will ensure that the Office is well-aligned with government's broader goals related to supporting Nova Scotia's population and labour force.

The launch of the Expression of Interest intake management system in January 2015 is a key priority in Nova Scotia and across the country as its goal is to provide a faster route for skilled immigrants to enter Canada in response to labour market needs. The Office of Immigration looks forward to ongoing and focused engagement with employers to ensure they take full advantage of this opportunity. Their ability to grow depends on a readily available workforce.

In addition to working with employers, the Office of Immigration will also review the Nova Scotia Nominee Program with a focus on opportunities to attract business people, entrepreneurs and international students. By attracting entrepreneurs to Nova Scotia, we can generate new businesses and new jobs. Meanwhile, Nova Scotia's large body of international students represents a significant opportunity for retaining highly qualified people who are already here in the province.

We will continue our partnership with the immigrant-serving organizations whose programs are a cornerstone in our efforts to retain newcomers in the long term. It is not enough to attract immigrants to our province in increasing numbers if the welcome that awaits them is less than genuine, or if the credentials they obtained elsewhere go unrecognized here and employment opportunities in their trade or specialization prove unobtainable. We want people to come, work, live and stay in Nova Scotia.

Our progress in these areas will be influenced by the establishment of a Premier's Advisory Council on Immigration. Lead by the Premier, the council will bring an added dimension to our efforts with Citizenship and Immigration Canada to increase the number of immigrants to Nova Scotia.

Our work here in Nova Scotia complements the work being done across the country in support of a joint federal-provincial-territorial vision for immigration in which:

- Canada is a destination of choice;
- immigration contributes to increased economic growth, innovation, entrepreneurship, and competitiveness;
- the benefits of immigration are shared across Canada;
- communities welcome and support newcomers;
- immigrants participate to their full potential, economically and socially;
- the immigration system is trusted and valued; and
- social and humanitarian commitments are strengthened.

On behalf of all the staff at the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration, I look forward to a fulfilling and eventful year in our role as the champion of the province's immigration needs.

Catherine Blewett
Deputy Minister, Nova Scotia Office of Immigration

Office Mandate/Mission/Vision

Mandate:

The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration receives its mandate from sections 25J, 25K and 25L of the Public Service Act. The Act states that – under the direction of its Minister – the Office takes a lead role in working with partners in private, public, academic and non-governmental organization sectors to:

- attract, integrate and retain immigrants;
- promote a welcoming culture for immigrants by raising public awareness on immigration and diversity issues;
- market the Province as an attractive immigrant destination;
- strengthen immigration and settlement planning, policy and programming; and
- ensure planning and capacity for the effective delivery of immigrant settlement and integration programming.

The Office also facilitates and promotes a co-ordinated approach to immigration within the Government, and develops advice and provides support to the Government in policy, planning, research and co-ordination in matters related to immigration and settlement.

Mission:

To take a lead role in engaging and working with partners to attract, integrate, and retain immigrants, recognizing the important contributions they make to our social, economic, and cultural fabric.

Vision:

Our vision is a province that welcomes greater numbers of immigrants each year, makes them welcome, contributes to their success and sees the benefits of immigration spread among all of our communities.

Strategic Objectives/Outcomes

The strategic objectives/outcomes of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration are listed below and as they relate to its 3 core business areas.

Attraction and Recruitment

a. Launch a new Business Stream within the Nova Scotia Nominee Program to attract immigrants with business ideas and capital, and create employment.
b. Maximize all provincial and federal pathways to immigration by engaging with business, industry and labour to meet skill shortages.
c. Work to ensure Nova Scotia and the entire Atlantic region share equitably in the benefits of Canada's immigration program.

Integration and Retention

d. Lead efforts to demonstrate that Nova Scotia is an open and welcoming society.
e. Focus on attracting immigrants with a genuine intention to live in Nova Scotia.
f. Fund settlement services that increase the likelihood of immigrant success.

Leadership and Policy Development

g. Continue to advance Nova Scotia's case for a greater number of nominee certificates.
h. Support the formation and the work of the Premier's Advisory Council on Immigration.
i. Leverage our partnerships with key stakeholders in order to achieve our common immigration goals for Nova Scotia.
j. Work with the Office of Policy and Priorities, Intergovernmental Affairs, and other departments across government to co-ordinate efforts to develop and advance a population strategy.

Government Priorities

The Office of Immigration is committed to advancing Government's priorities in the following ways:

A. Prosperous businesses of all sizes - creating jobs across the province

The Nova Scotia Nominee Program is a source of skilled workers for businesses that are unable to fill their labour needs domestically.

Businesses will have more immediate access to a global immigrant talent pool when the federal Expression of Interest intake management system launches in January 2015. The Office of Immigration will work with employers so they can make best use of this new tool.

Entrepreneurs create wealth and jobs. The Nova Scotia Nominee Program will develop a Business Stream to attract immigrant entrepreneurs to Nova Scotia.

B. Helping all Nova Scotians meet their fullest potential by supporting vulnerable communities – seniors, disabled.

The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration funds settlement service-providing organizations to create the conditions in which all members of immigrant families can access programming required to adapt successfully to life in a new country. Many newcomers face cultural, language and credential-recognition barriers that make them more vulnerable than the population at large.

Budget Context

Office of Immigration Budget Context Chart			
	2013 – 2014 Estimate	**2013 – 2014 Forecast**	**2014 – 2015 Estimate**
	($ thousands)	($ thousands)	($ thousands)
Total Gross Office Expenses:			
	$6,050	$5,391	$7,725
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Recoveries			($137)
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	26	22.56	27.5

Underspending in 2013-14 due to unfilled positions, less administrative dollars spent as well.

Performance Measurement

Attraction and Recruitment

Outcome	Measure	Base Year	Annual Target: 2014	Trends - Subsequent year data*	Strategic Actions
Increase immigrant arrivals in Nova Scotia through the nominee program as well as through immigration pathways that are strictly federal.	Number of new immigrant landings per calendar year.	2003: 1474	2850	2004: 1771 2005: 1929 2006: 2586 2007: 2523 2008: 2651 2009: 2424 2010: 2408 2011: 2138 2012: 2370 2013: 2552	Launch a new Business Stream within the Nova Scotia Nominee Program to attract immigrants with business ideas and capital, and create employment. Work to ensure Nova Scotia and the entire Atlantic region share equitably in the benefits of Canada's immigration program. Maximize all provincial and federal pathways to immigration by engaging with business, industry and labour to meet skill shortages.

* See table next page for more detailed breakdown of these figures.

Breakdown of landings – Nominee Program Principal Applicants, Dependents vs Exclusively Federal Pathways										
Category / Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
NSNP principal applicants	20	105	253	287	319	302	292	348	444	657
NSNP dependents	44	221	610	613	547	531	346	431	513	545
NSNP total	64	326	863	900	866	833	638	779	957	1202
NSNP % of landings	*4%*	*17%*	*33%*	*36%*	*33%*	*34%*	*26%*	*36%*	*41%*	*47%*
All federal	1707	1603	1723	1623	1785	1591	1770	1359	1384	1350
Federal % of landings	*96%*	*83%*	*67%*	*64%*	*67%*	*66%*	*74%*	*64%*	*59%*	*53%*
GRAND TOTAL	**1771**	**1929**	**2586**	**2523**	**2651**	**2424**	**2408**	**2138**	**2341**	**2552**

Integration and Retention

Outcome	Measure	Base Year	Annual Target: 2014	Trends - Subsequent year data	Strategic Actions
Increased immigrant retention rate	Percentage of all immigrants arriving in Nova Scotia in a five-year period remaining in the sixth year. This measure was originally created using a baseline of 37% from the 2001 national census. The figure rose to 63% by the 2006 census. However, the discontinuation of the long-form census in 2011 means it is no longer possible to track retention with census data. Similar calculations can be done using tax filer data available in the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)	2008 IMDB: 69%	70% or better retention rate.	IMDB data released for 2009 and 2010 but not yet independently calculated.	Lead efforts to demonstrate that Nova Scotia is an open and welcoming society. Focus on attracting immigrants with a genuine intention to live in Nova Scotia. Fund settlement services that increase the likelihood of immigrant success.

Leadership and Policy Development

Outcome	Measure	Base Year	Annual Target: 2014	Trends - Subsequent year data	Strategic Actions
Increase the number of annual provincial nominations.	Number of certificates issued annually per calendar year.	2003: 23	700	2004: 117 2005: 303 2006: 400 2007: 405 2008: 309 2009: 367 2010: 500 2011: 525 2012: 725 2013: 630	Continue to advance Nova Scotia's case for a greater number of nominee certificates. Support the formation and the work of the Premier's Advisory Council on Immigration. Leverage our partnerships with key stakeholders in order to achieve our common immigration goals for Nova Scotia. Work with the Office of Policy and Priorities, Intergovernmental Affairs, and other departments across government to co-ordinate efforts to develop and advance a population strategy.